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Request for the inclusion of a sub-item in the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs: election of a member of the International Court of Justice

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By a letter dated 12 June 2001, a certified copy of which was forwarded to the attention of the Secretary-General under the cover of a letter dated 14 June 2001 from the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge and former President Mohammed Bedjaoui informed the President of the Court, pursuant to Article 13, paragraph 4, of the Statute of the Court, of his resignation as a member of the Court effective 30 September 2001. A vacancy in the Court will therefore occur on 30 September 2001.

2. Judge and former President Bedjaoui was elected a member of the Court as from 19 March 1982 and was re-elected as from 6 February 1988 and from 6 February 1997. He was the President of the Chamber formed to deal with the case concerning the frontier dispute (Burkina Faso/Republic of Mali, 1983-1987), and was President of the Court from 1994 to 1997.

3. By a letter dated 19 June 2001, the Security Council was informed of the occurrence of this vacancy in the Court.

4. The preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/56/50) does not contain a sub-item concerning the election of members of the International Court of Justice. The Secretary-General therefore deems it necessary to include in the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, pursuant to rule 13 (g) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, under item 15, entitled "Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs", a sub-item entitled "Election of a member of the International Court of Justice".

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